

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 9-13, 19-22, 28-31 and 37-38 remain pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30 and 37 are amended. Claims 4-8, 14-18, 23-27 and 32-36 are canceled. In accordance with paragraph 1 of the Office Action, original claim 39 now appears as renumbered claim 38, so that the claims are properly consecutively numbered.

The amended claims are related to the originally presented claims as follows. Claim 1 combines the features of original claims 1, 4, 7 and 8. Claim 11 combines the features of original claims 11, 14, 17 and 18. Claim 21 combines the features of claims 21, 23, 26 and 27. Claim 30 combines the features of original claims 30, 32, 35 and 36. As such, the asserted rejections for anticipation by Vu U.S. Patent No. 6,185,436 (Vu) and Tayloe U.S. Patent No. 5,987,325 (Tayloe), as well as the asserted rejection of claims for obviousness over Vu in view of Hirsch U.S. Patent No. 6,199,158¹, are obviated.

As just noted, amended Claims 1, 11, 21 and 30 include, respectively, subject matter of Claims 8, 18, 27 and 36. These latter claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vu in view of Blakeney, II et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,085,085 (Blackeney et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it might be applied to amended claims 1, 11, 21 and 30. In addition to reciting the subject matter of claims 8, 18, 27 and 36 respectively, amended claims 1, 11, 21 and 30 further recite a deactivation feature (or method step) providing a significant benefit from a power conservation standpoint. In particular, amended apparatus claims 1 and 21 recite that the activator deactivates a non-selected IC unit. Similarly, method claims 11 and 30 recite the step of deactivating a non-selected IC unit. By deactivating a non-selected IC unit upon activation of a selected IC unit, power consumption may be advantageously reduced, leading to, e.g., longer life of a rechargeable battery power source. Deactivation of a non-selected IC unit is illustrated in application Fig. 11 and is described, e.g., at paragraphs 68-71 of the specification.

Vu discloses removable/insertable subscriber identity modules. See, e.g., the "Summary of Invention" section at column 2. According to Vu, "[t]he subscriber identity modules have stored therein different subscriber information and the modules selected by the control signal

¹ This patent was miscited in the Office Action as "US 6,085,08."

provides, via the transceiver, the subscriber information stored therein to the base station cell. With such an arrangement, a user may travel to a different PLMN [Public Land Mobile Land Network] and the handset automatically select [sic] a module associated with a nearby home network thereby saving long distance and roaming charges.” Column 2, lines 45-54; see also, column 8, lines 15-36 (... Thus, if the handset is in one of the PLMNs, say PLMN1, roaming charges will be avoided by having the handset automatically switch between SIMs as the handset moves between CA1 and CA2.”)

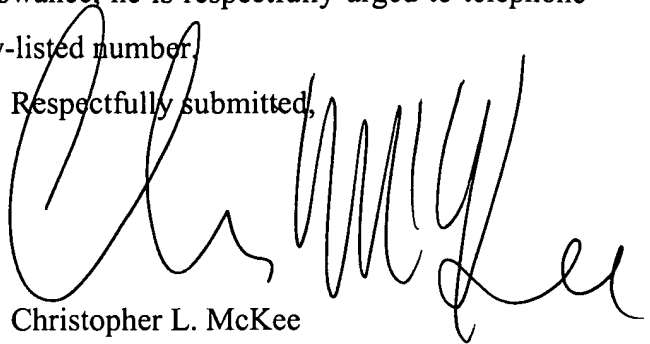
Thus, the objective of Vu in switching the SIM which connects to the network is avoidance of long distance charges. Neither Vu nor Blakeney et al. teaches or suggests a step of deactivating a non-selected IC unit in conjunction with activating another IC unit based upon broadcast location data, nor the attendant advantage of reduced power consumption. There is no teaching in either Vu or Blackeney et al. of how one would deactivate a SIM while leaving it available for automatic selection when the handset enters a home network thereof.

It is noted that Tayloe describes “deactivation” of a non-selected SIM “manually or automatically via a stored schedule.” See Col.5, lines 37-51. It is not clear that this deactivation constitutes a powering down of the SIM effective to conserve power. Moreover, Tayloe’s deactivation is carried out manually or in accordance with a schedule. There is no teaching to deactivate a non-selected IC unit in conjunction with activating another IC unit based upon a broadcast of location data. Moreover, there is no teaching in Tayloe of how one would deactivate a SIM while leaving it available for Vu’s described automatic selection when the handset enters a home network thereof. Accordingly, even when taken together with Vu, Tayloe does not teach or suggest the presently claimed inventions.

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Substitute Amendment dated: June 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2004

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, he is respectfully urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher L. McKee', written over the 'Respectfully submitted,' text.

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